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A CLONE CONSPIRACY TIE-IN

The AMAZING SPIDER-MAN®

WHEN PETER PARKER WAS BITTEN BY A RADIOACTIVE SPIDER, HE GAINED THE PROPORTIONAL SPEED, STRENGTH, AND AGILITY OF A SPIDER; ADHESIVE FINGERTIPS AND TOES; AND THE UNIQUE PRECOGNITIVE AWARENESS OF DANGER CALLED "SPIDER-SENSE"! AFTER LEARNING THAT WITH GREAT POWER THERE MUST ALSO COME GREAT RESPONSIBILITY, HE BECAME THE CRIME-FIGHTING SUPER HERO CALLED...

The AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

WARNING! THE EVENTS OF THIS STORY TAKE PLACE AFTER ***THE CLONE CONSPIRACY #1***! IF YOU HAVEN'T READ IT, PROCEED AT YOUR OWN RISK!

IN ORDER TO ESCAPE DEATH, SPIDER-MAN'S GREATEST FOE, DOCTOR OCTOPUS, SWITCHED BODIES WITH PETER PARKER. PETER'S MIND ENDED UP BACK IN HIS BODY, SEEMINGLY SILENCING OCTAVIUS FOREVER.

AFTER BREAKING INTO THE HEADQUARTERS OF A MYSTERIOUS NEW PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY CALLED NEW U, THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN WAS HORRIFIED TO FIND HIS METAL-LIMBED FOE ALIVE AND WELL.

HOW OTTO SURVIVED REMAINS A MYSTERY...

"SPIDER-MAN'S SUPERIOR"

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GREAT! SO DOC OCK'S BACK NOW?! PERFECT!*
I GUESS JACKAL'S JUST CLONING EVERYBODY, IS THAT IT?!
COULDN'T HE CLONE SOMEBODY COOL, LIKE, I DUNNO, PRINCE? NO! LET'S GO FOR TUBBY McPSYCHO HERE!
YOUR TAUNTS RING HOLLOW, SPIDER-MAN. I KNOW YOU WELL ENOUGH TO SEE THAT, IN YOUR HEART, YOU KNOW THE TRUTH.
UNDERNEATH NEW U HEADQUARTERS.
THE JACKAL'S LAB.
*YEP! IT JUST HAPPENED IN CLONE CONSPIRACY #1 OUT NOW! --NICK.

I AM NO MERE CLONE, SIMULACRUM, OR HOLOGRAM.
IT IS I. THE ONE TRUE OTTO OCTAVIUS.

THE MAN WHO CHEATED DEATH ITSELF!

PARKER INDUSTRIES. MANHATTAN. DAYS AGO.

A DIGITAL GHOST. THAT IS ALL I AM ONCE AGAIN. REDUCED TO INHABITING THIS OCTOBOT... INTOLERABLE!

THERE MUST BE AN ANSWER. THINK BACK, OTTO.

I FIRST USED THIS TECHNOLOGY TO SWITCH MINDS WITH SPIDER-MAN...

...TRAPPING HIM INSIDE MY DYING FORM, WHILE I GOT TO LIVE ON...

...AS A TRULY SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN.

THE PLAN WAS PERFECT, AS ANY PLAN OF MINE WOULD BE.

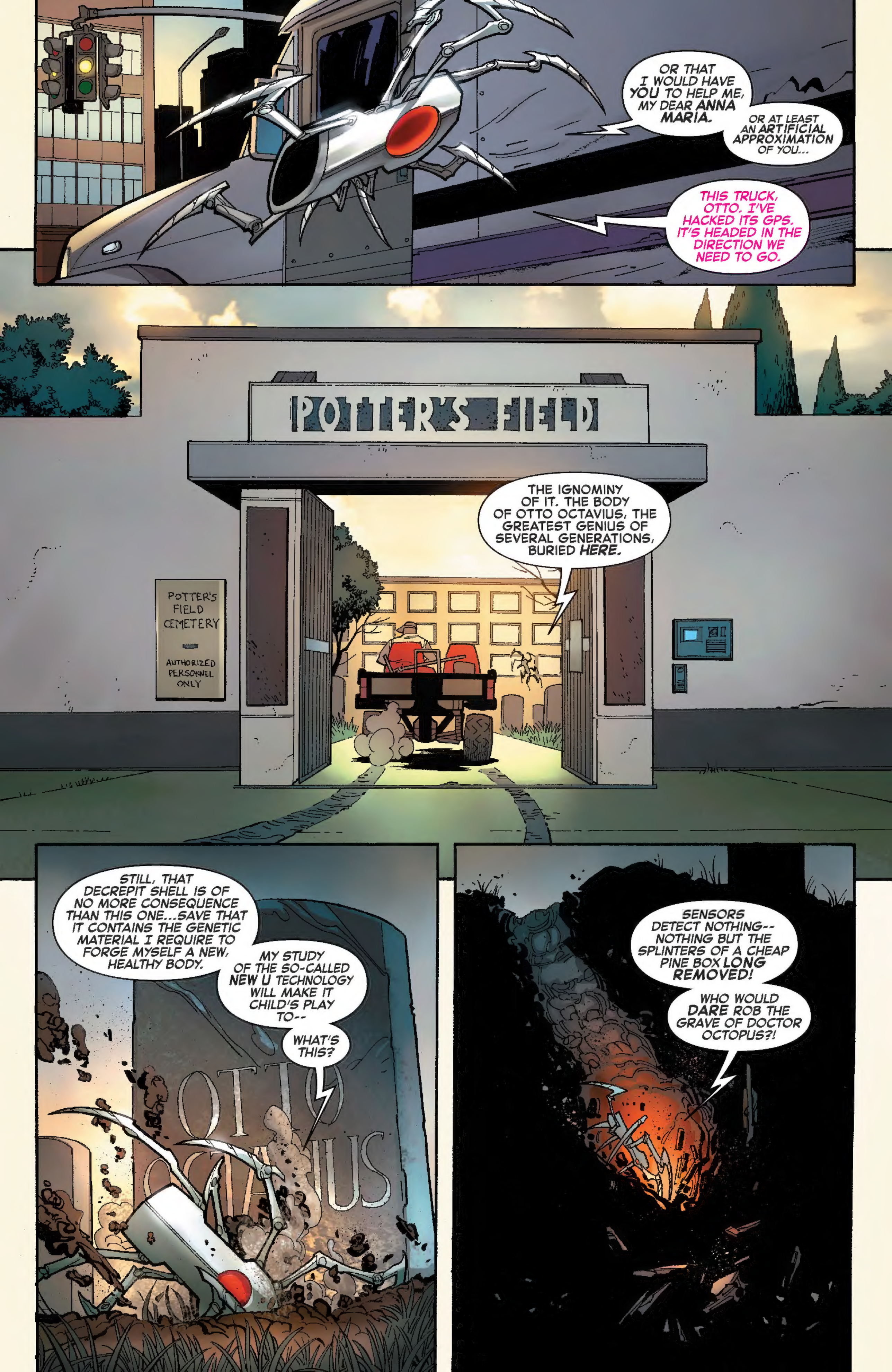
BUT AFTER TRAVELING FORWARD IN TIME, I LEARNED THE UNTHINKABLE--

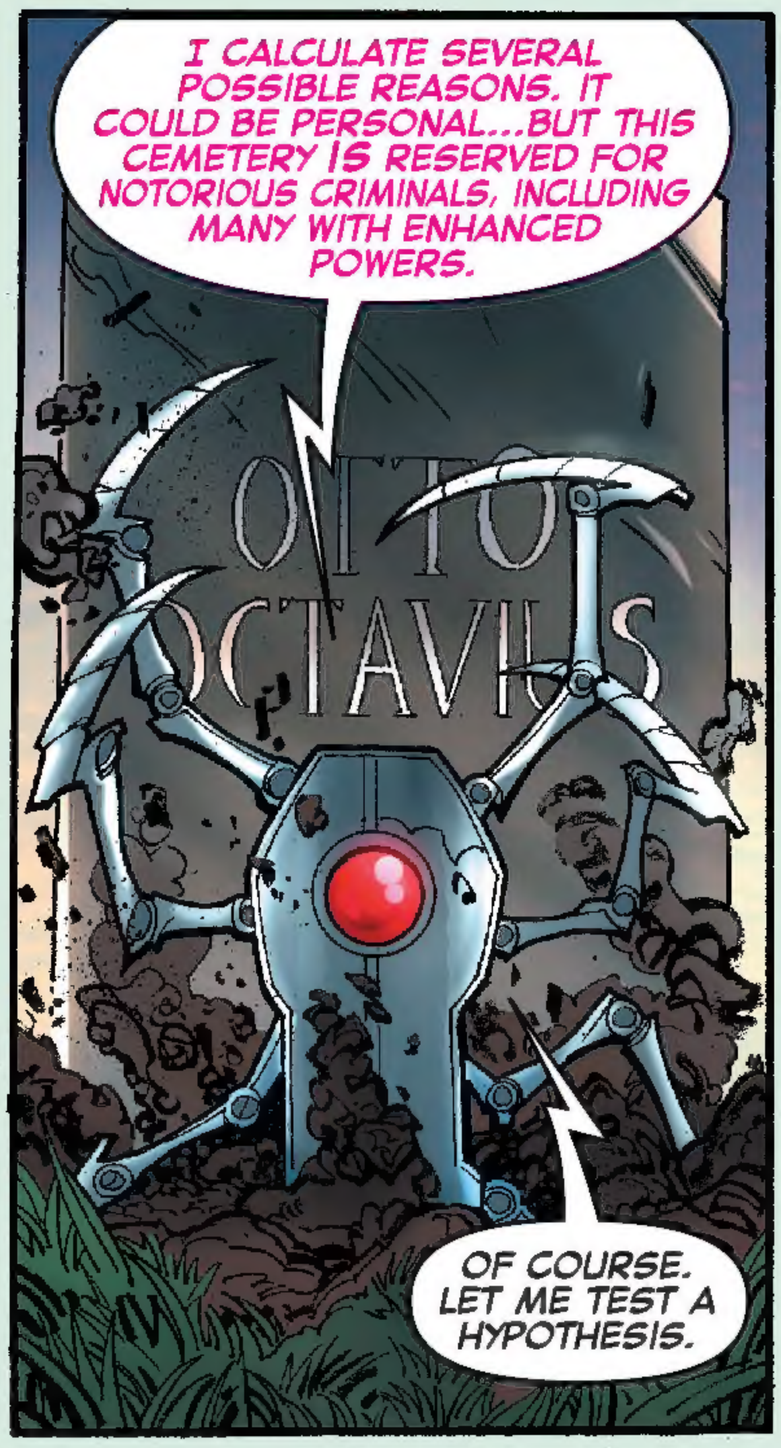
--THAT ONE DAY I WOULD FAIL! THAT HE WOULD RECLAIM HIS BODY, FORCING ME OUT.

OF COURSE, HE UNDERESTIMATED ME, AS HE ALWAYS DOES. HE KNEW RETURNING ME TO MY PROPER TIME WOULD ERASE THE MEMORY OF WHAT I'D LEARNED...

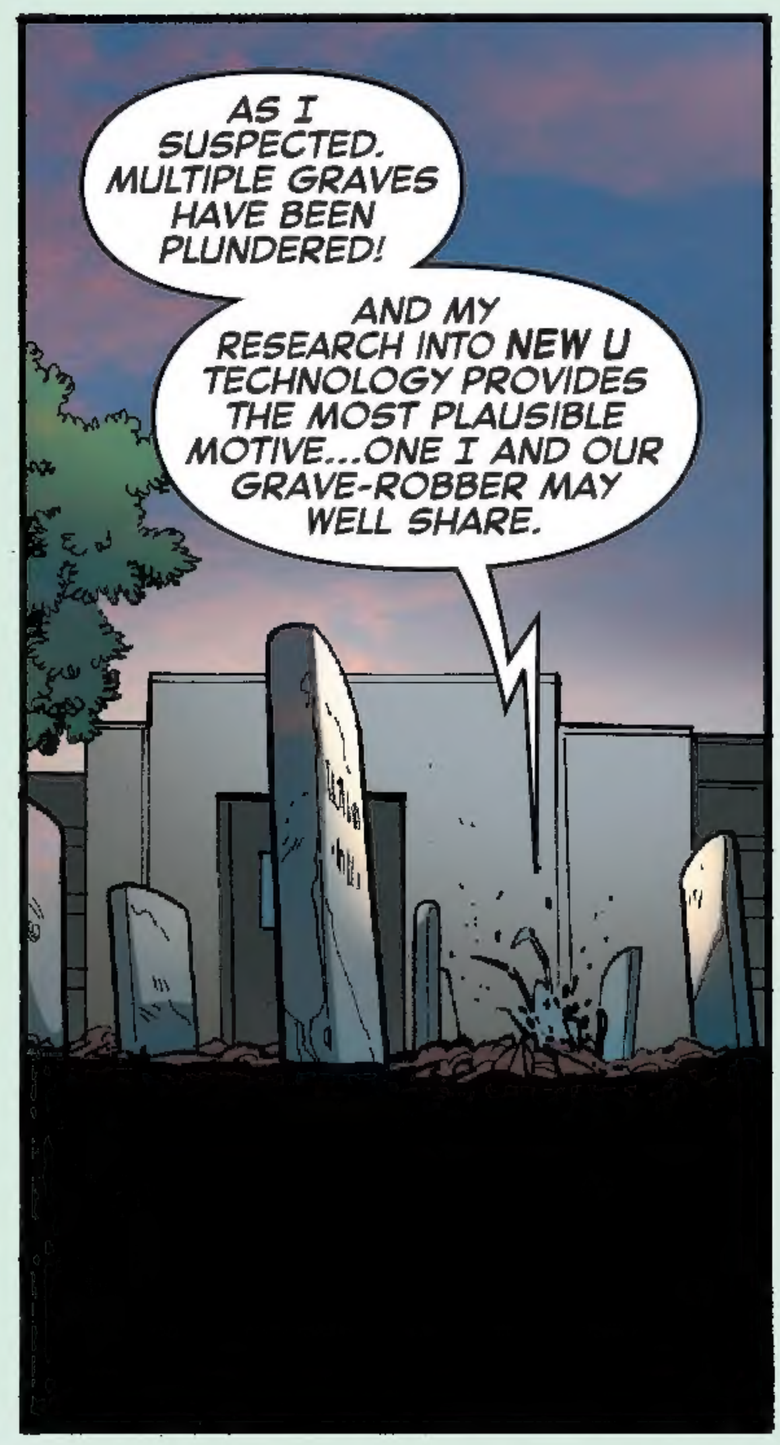
...BUT COULD NOT CONCEIVE THAT, IN THE MOMENTS I HAD LEFT...

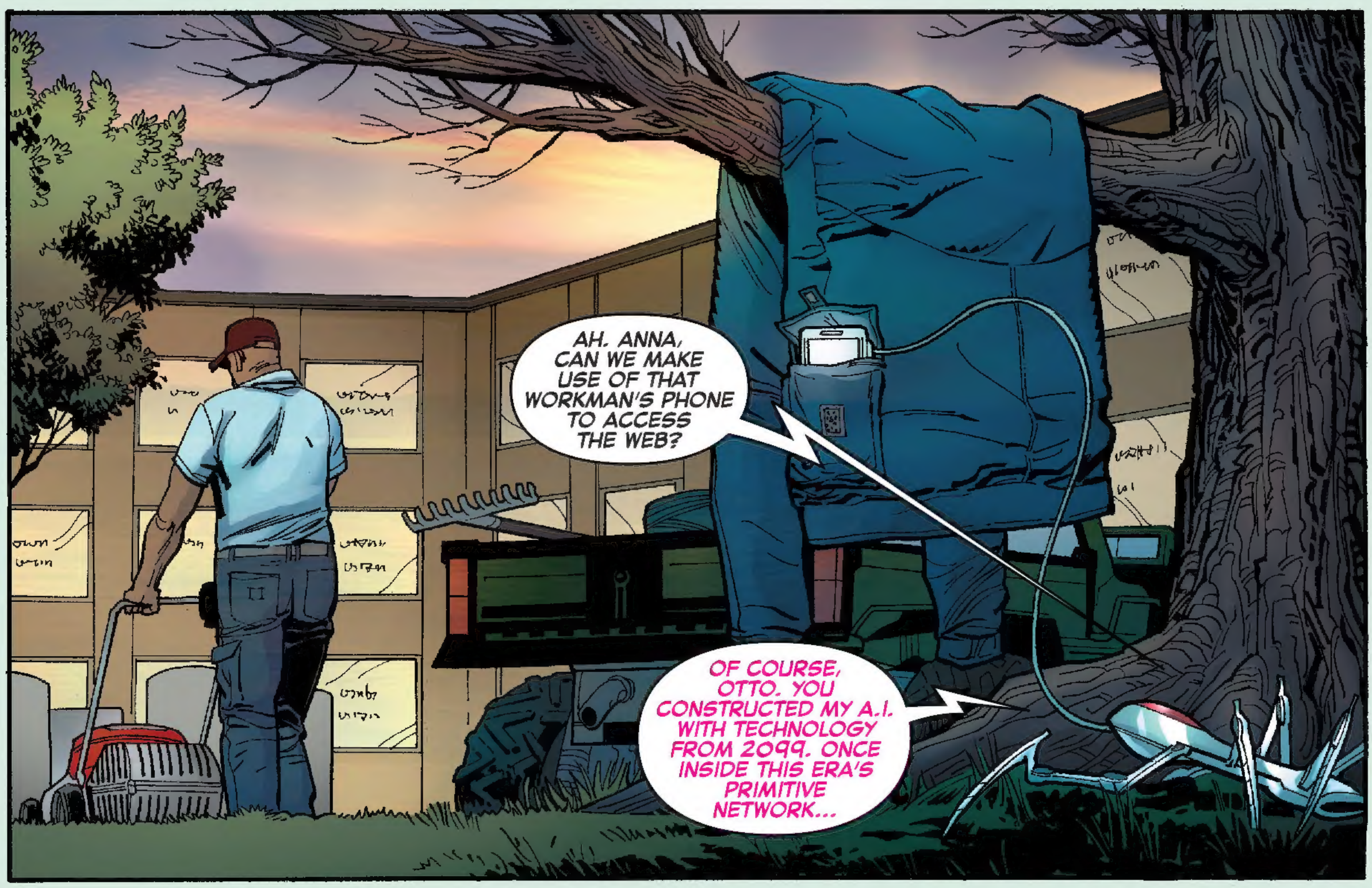
...I COULD USE MY GENIUS-- AND STOLEN TECHNOLOGY FROM THE FUTURE--TO STORE MY MIND IN THIS DEVICE.


OR THAT I WOULD HAVE YOU TO HELP ME, MY DEAR ANNA MARIA.
OR AT LEAST AN ARTIFICIAL APPROXIMATION OF YOU...
THIS TRUCK, OTTO. I'VE HACKED ITS GPS. IT'S HEADED IN THE DIRECTION WE NEED TO GO.
POTTERS FIELD
POTTER'S FIELD CEMETERY
AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY
THE IGNOMINY OF IT. THE BODY OF OTTO OCTAVIUS, THE GREATEST GENIUS OF SEVERAL GENERATIONS, BURIED HERE.
STILL, THAT DECREPIT SHELL IS OF NO MORE CONSEQUENCE THAN THIS ONE...SAVE THAT IT CONTAINS THE GENETIC MATERIAL I REQUIRE TO FORGE MYSELF A NEW, HEALTHY BODY.
MY STUDY OF THE SO-CALLED NEW U TECHNOLOGY WILL MAKE IT CHILD'S PLAY TO--
WHAT'S THIS?
OTTO OCTAVIUS
SENSORS DETECT NOTHING-- NOTHING BUT THE SPLINTERS OF A CHEAP PINE BOX LONG REMOVED!
WHO WOULD DARE ROB THE GRAVE OF DOCTOR OCTOPUS?!


I CALCULATE SEVERAL POSSIBLE REASONS. IT COULD BE PERSONAL...BUT THIS CEMETERY IS RESERVED FOR NOTORIOUS CRIMINALS, INCLUDING MANY WITH ENHANCED POWERS.
OF COURSE. LET ME TEST A HYPOTHESIS.

THIS IS THE GRAVE OF ALISTAIR SMYTHE, THE SPIDER-SLAYER...I PUT HIM HERE MYSELF. AND IF I'M CORRECT...
YES. A COMPLETE LACK OF THE GASES OR CHEMICALS ONE EXPECTS FROM A DECOMPOSING CORPSE! THERE IS NO BODY HERE, EITHER.

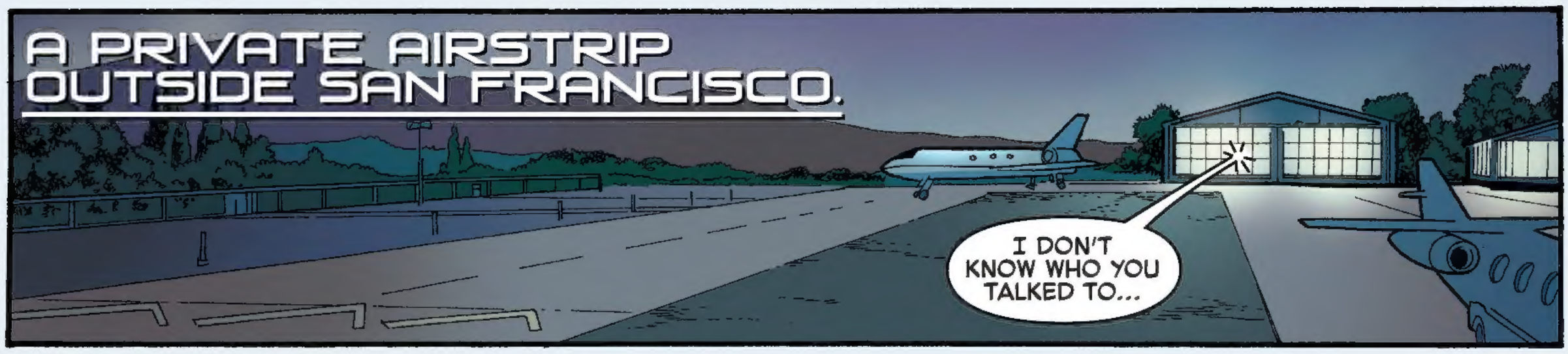

AS I SUSPECTED. MULTIPLE GRAVES HAVE BEEN PLUNDERED!
AND MY RESEARCH INTO NEW U TECHNOLOGY PROVIDES THE MOST PLAUSIBLE MOTIVE...ONE I AND OUR GRAVE-ROBBER MAY WELL SHARE.

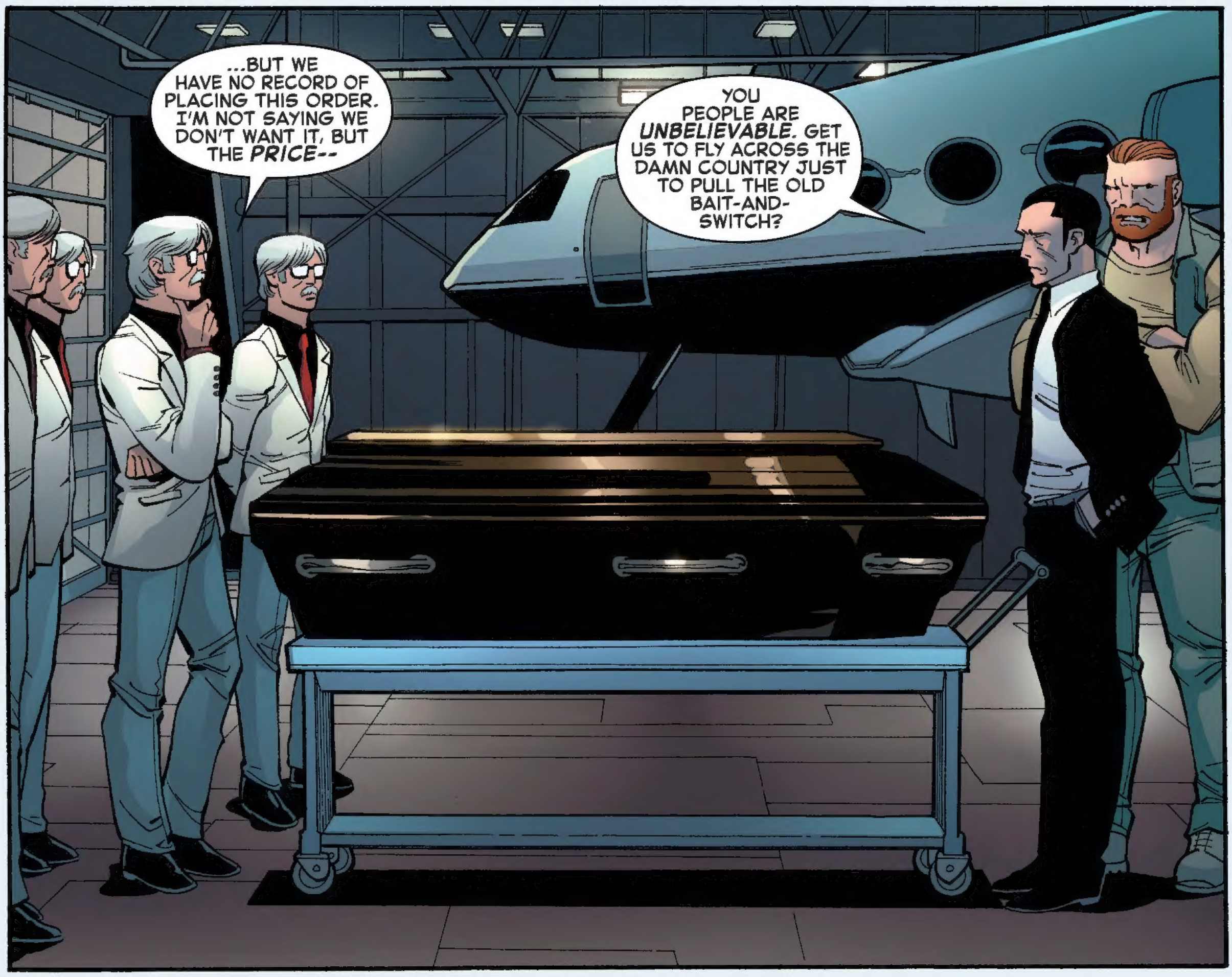

AH. ANNA, CAN WE MAKE USE OF THAT WORKMAN'S PHONE TO ACCESS THE WEB?
OF COURSE, OTTO. YOU CONSTRUCTED MY A.I. WITH TECHNOLOGY FROM 2099. ONCE INSIDE THIS ERA'S PRIMITIVE NETWORK...

...THERE'S VIRTUALLY NOWHERE WE CAN'T GO.
HERE, OUR SCOPE IS ONLY RESTRICTED BY THE LIMITS OF YOUR MIND. WHICH IS TO SAY...

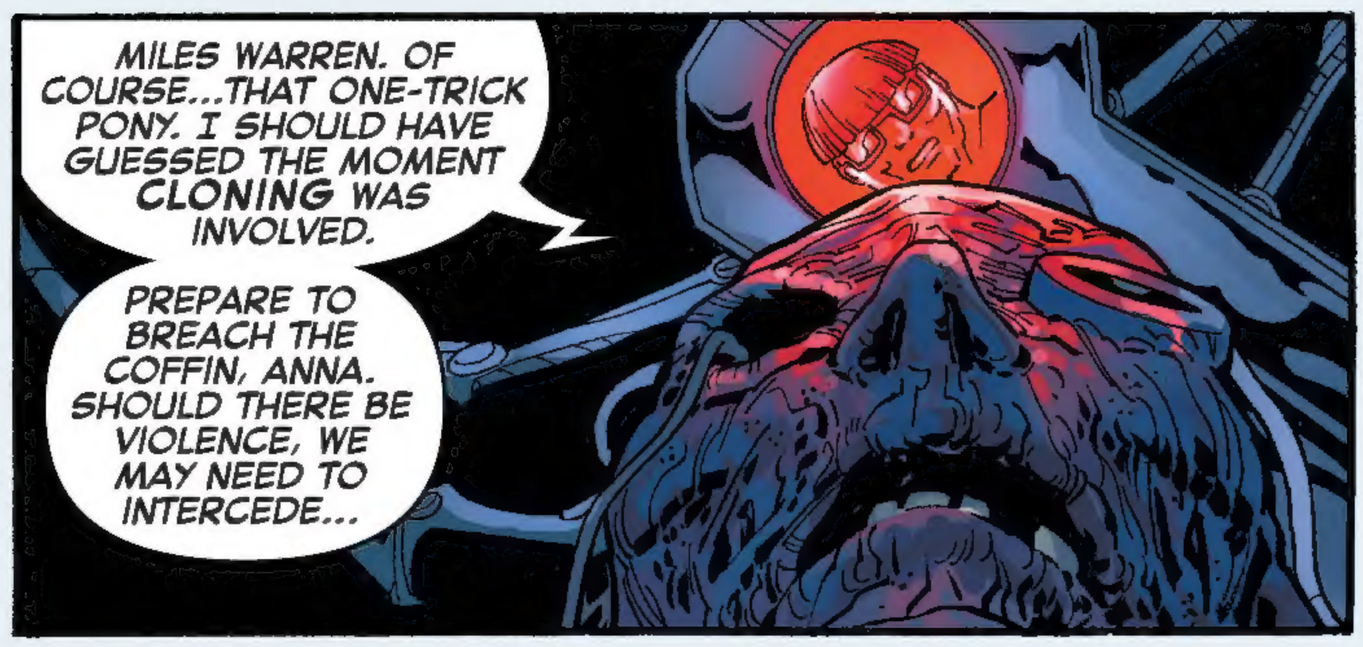
...THERE ARE NO LIMITS.
I WAS RIGHT. THE ONLY FACILITY WITH THE TECHNOLOGY TO MAKE PROPER USE OF THESE BODIES IS NEW U.
HIDDEN BEHIND THEIR LAUGHABLE EXCUSES FOR SHELL COMPANIES AND ENCRYPTION, THERE IS EVIDENCE OF BLACK MARKET TRANSACTIONS WITH DEALERS IN RARE BIO-MATTER.
HMM. THEY USE VOICE SCRAMBLERS WHEN SPEAKING. HOW CONVENIENT... FOR ME.
THIS IS BURKE.
YES. I WANTED TO INQUIRE ABOUT THE OCTAVIUS SPECIMEN.
WE STILL HAVE IT, BUT WE'RE NOT LOWERING THE PRICE. THERE'S A BUYER IN SYMKARIA WHO'S VERY INTERESTED. STUFFS AND MOUNTS 'EM, I HEAR.
H-HOW DARE-- THAT IS, YOU DON'T DARE SHIP SOMETHING LIKE THAT OVERSEAS. AND AT ANY RATE, WE'VE RECONSIDERED. NEW U SHALL MEET YOUR PRICE...
...IF YOU CAN ARRANGE FOR DELIVERY TO OUR LOCATION. TONIGHT.

SOON...
CAREFUL! DON'T DAMAGE IT.
SERENITY FUNERAL HOME
IT'S NOT EXACTLY IN *MINT CONDITION*. YOU WANT I SHOULD PULL OFF THESE PIECES'A METAL, CABLE, AND WHATNOT? THEY'RE AFTER *GENETIC* MATERIAL, RIGHT?
LEAVE IT, HARE. IT'S UP TO THE CLIENT WHAT TO DO WITH IT ONCE THEY'VE PAID. AND THEY *ARE* GOING TO PAY...EXCEEDINGLY WELL.
LET *THEM* DEAL WITH ANY OF THE EXTRA BITS.
KLIK
HRM.
I MUST CONFESS, IT'S... DISQUIETING. TO BE THIS CLOSE TO THE MORTAL SHELL WHICH INFLICTED SUCH PAIN AND INDIGNITY UPON ME.
BUT IT SHALL ALL BE WORTH IT WHEN IT GRANTS ME NEW LIFE... AND THE OPPORTUNITY TO SURPASS MY OLD SELF IN EVERY WAY!

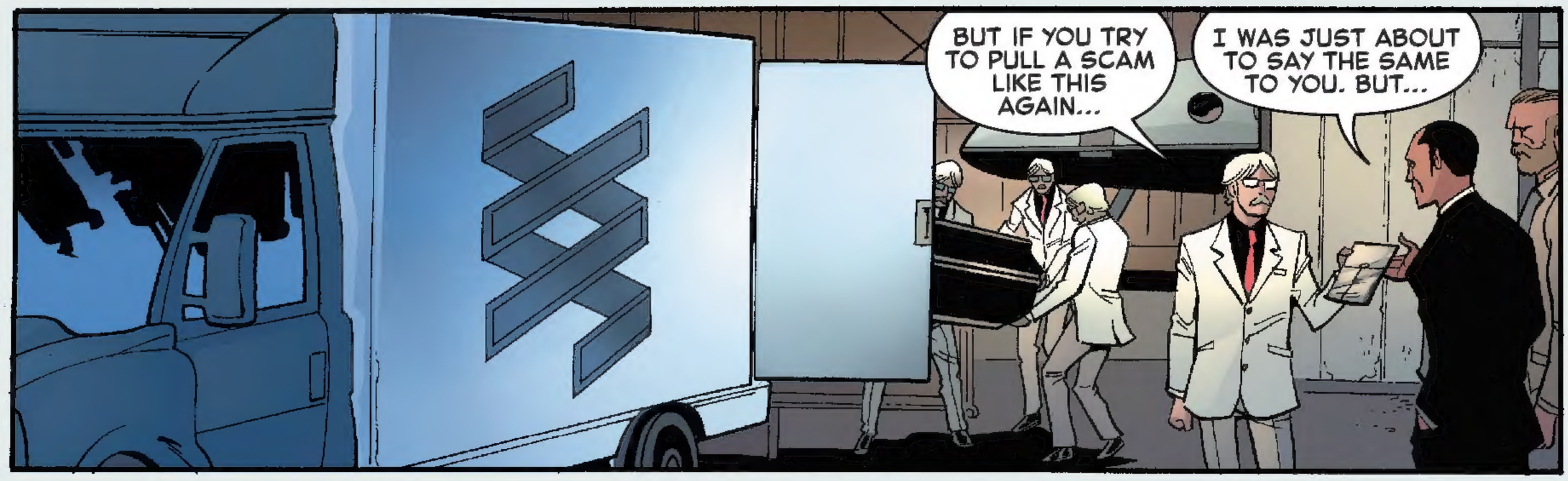

A PRIVATE AIRSTRIP OUTSIDE SAN FRANCISCO.
I DON'T KNOW WHO YOU TALKED TO...

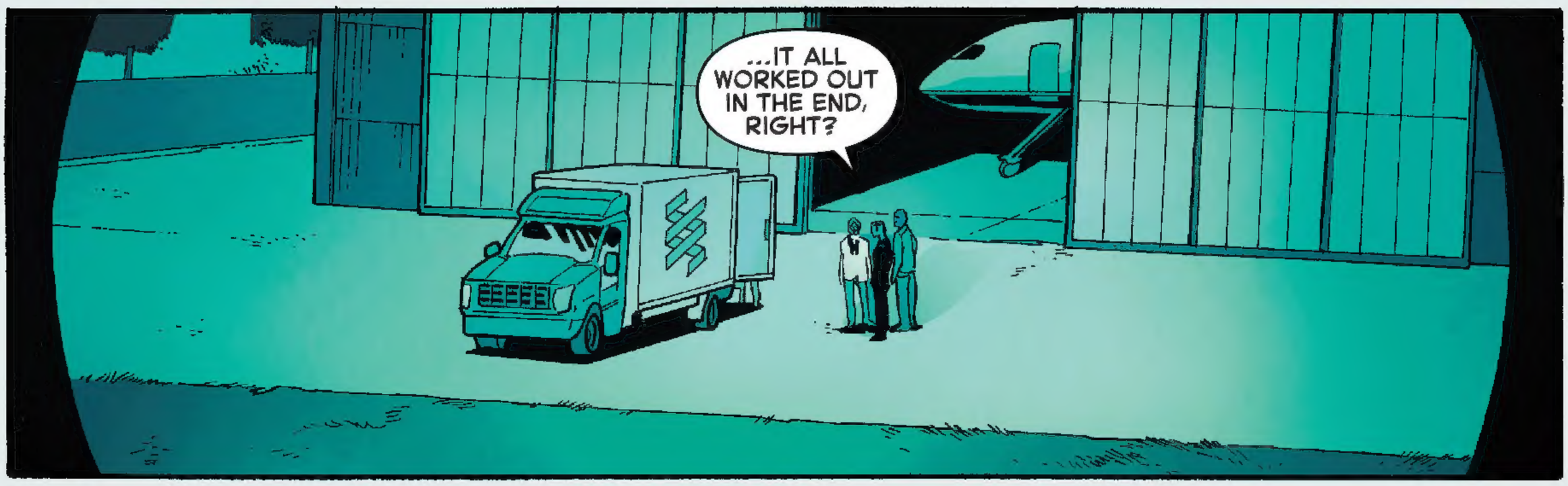

...BUT WE HAVE NO RECORD OF PLACING THIS ORDER. I'M NOT SAYING WE DON'T WANT IT, BUT THE PRICE--
YOU PEOPLE ARE UNBELIEVABLE. GET US TO FLY ACROSS THE DAMN COUNTRY JUST TO PULL THE OLD BAIT-AND-SWITCH?

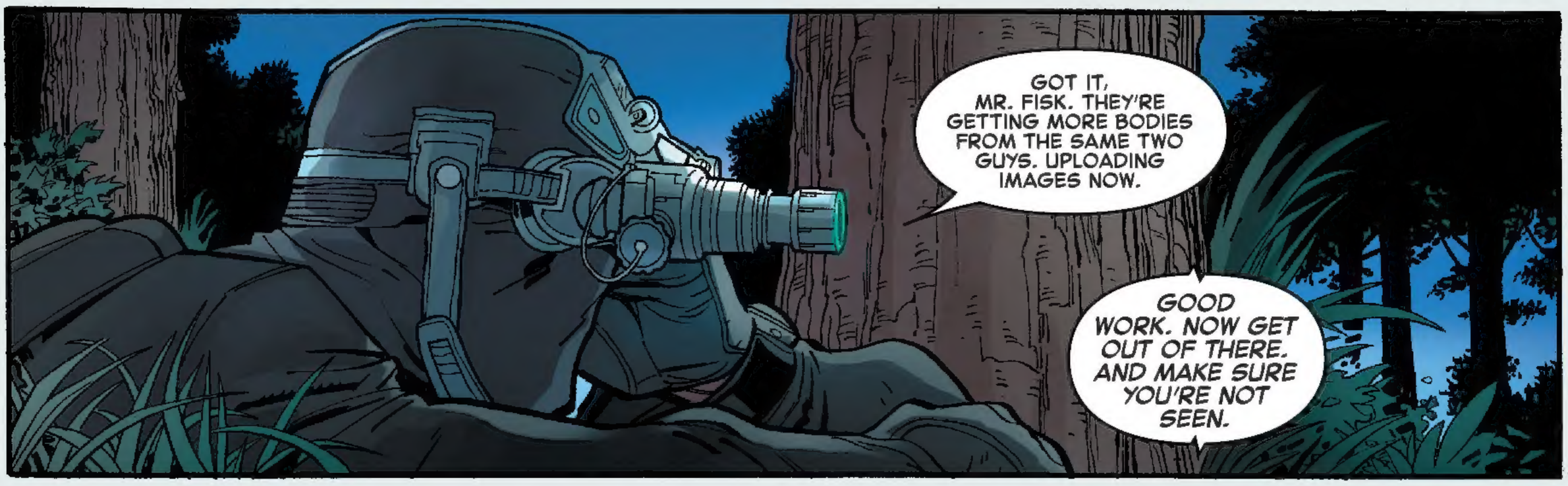
YOU'D BETTER RECONSIDER YOUR POSITION, WARREN, AND FAST. OR YOU COULD END UP TRIPLETS... TWINS, EVEN.
HEH. GOOD LUCK WITH THAT. THERE'S A LOT MORE LIKE US BACK HOME.
LISTEN, WE'VE HAD A MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL RELATIONSHIP. LET'S NOT DAMAGE IT IF WE DON'T HAVE TO. I'LL MAKE A CALL AND SEE IF WE CAN WORK SOMETHING OUT.

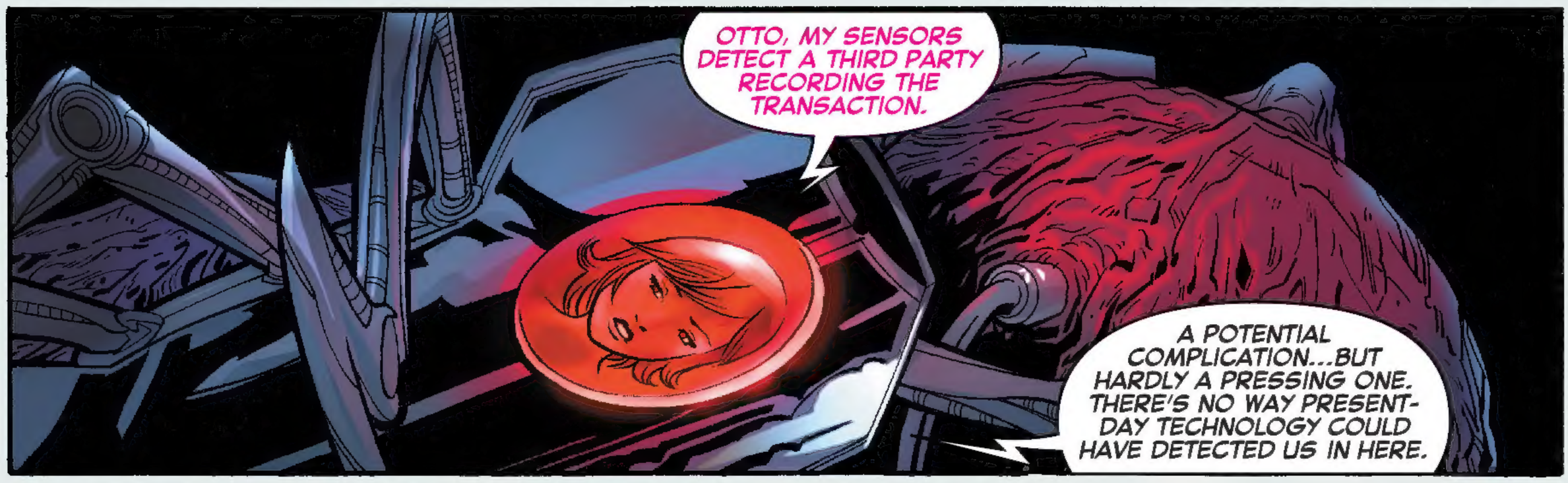

MILES WARREN. OF COURSE...THAT ONE-TRICK PONY. I SHOULD HAVE GUESSED THE MOMENT CLONING WAS INVOLVED.
PREPARE TO BREACH THE COFFIN, ANNA. SHOULD THERE BE VIOLENCE, WE MAY NEED TO INTERCEDE...

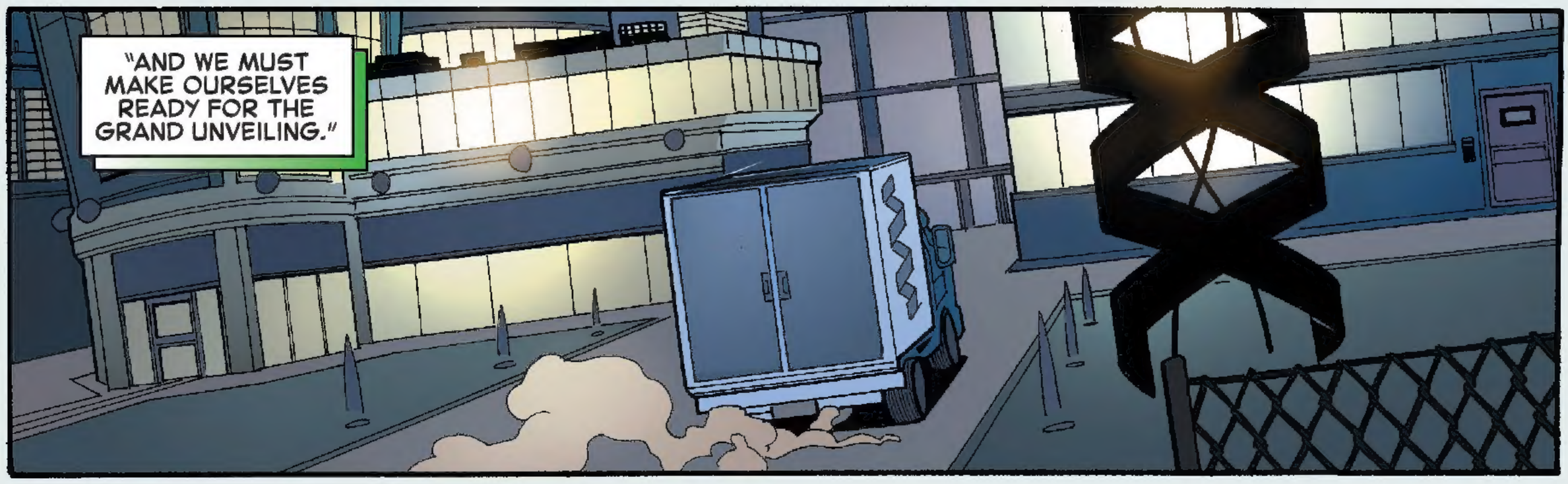
IT'S DONE. WE'LL MEET YOUR PRICE.
SEE? WHEN WE ACT LIKE CIVILIZED PEOPLE, PROBLEMS CAN BE SOLVED.


BUT IF YOU TRY TO PULL A SCAM LIKE THIS AGAIN...
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SAY THE SAME TO YOU. BUT...


...IT ALL WORKED OUT IN THE END, RIGHT?


GOT IT, MR. FISK. THEY'RE GETTING MORE BODIES FROM THE SAME TWO GUYS. UPLOADING IMAGES NOW.
GOOD WORK. NOW GET OUT OF THERE. AND MAKE SURE YOU'RE NOT SEEN.


OTTO, MY SENSORS DETECT A THIRD PARTY RECORDING THE TRANSACTION.
A POTENTIAL COMPLICATION...BUT HARDLY A PRESSING ONE. THERE'S NO WAY PRESENT-DAY TECHNOLOGY COULD HAVE DETECTED US IN HERE.


"AND WE MUST MAKE OURSELVES READY FOR THE GRAND UNVEILING."

MY, OH MY. WILL YOU LOOK AT THAT.

YOU REALLY LET YOURSELF GO, DIDN'T YOU, OTTO?

WELL, I'LL FIX THAT. MARTHA, MARLA, LET'S EXTRACT THE USUAL CROSS SECTION OF SAMPLES.

THE DONOR BODY SUFFERED FROM A DEBILITATING ILLNESS, DR. CONNORS. PLEASE MAKE SURE IT, AND ANY OTHER ABNORMALITIES, ARE *WEEDED OUT.*

WE WANT ALL THE BUGS OUT OF DOCTOR OCTOPUS 2.0.

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THEY EMERGE WITH FULLY DEVELOPED PERSONALITIES. THERE AREN'T ANY BRAIN PATTERN RECORDINGS, OR--

OF COURSE, YOU'RE THE NEWEST MEMBER OF OUR LITTLE GROUP. WELL, DR. JAMESON, THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO *SHOW OFF.*

YES, PLEASE DO, YOU CRETIN...

THIS WAS MY *BREAKTHROUGH.* PSYCHICS ALREADY KNOW THAT A MURDER WEAPON OR CHERISHED PERSONAL OBJECT RETAINS A PSYCHIC IMPRINT OF THE PERSON WHO DIED.

AND WHAT'S MORE PERSONAL THAN THE BODY ITSELF? I'VE FOUND A WAY TO RESTORE, FROM GENETIC MATERIAL, THE DECEASED'S PERSONA AND MEMORIES, RIGHT UP TO THE MOMENT OF DEATH!

BUT...THOSE ARE NOT *MY* BRAIN PATTERNS! THERE CAN BE NO MISTAKE. I'VE STUDIED THEM THOROUGHLY. WHAT COULD--

NO, NO, IT CAN'T BE. AND YET...

WHEN MY OLD BODY DIED, IT WASN'T *MY* CONSCIOUSNESS INHABITING IT.

IT WAS PARKER'S

COME, ANNA! WE CAN BROOK NO DELAY!
AGREED... BUT NOW WE'RE BOUND TO BE--
SSSSS!
--NOTICED!
SKAM
ALL POWER TO LEGS! IT'S IMPERATIVE WE REACH--
--THE VAT!
STOP, YOU IDIOTS! THAT EQUIPMENT'S HARDER TO REPLACE THAN YOU.
AND SINCE I CAN ALWAYS MAKE ANOTHER CLONE, I WOULDN'T MIND SEEING WHAT OUR LITTLE UNINVITED GUEST WANTS.
HOW CAN I HELP, OTTO?
YOU CAN'T, DEAR ANNA. I'D THOUGHT MY TASK WAS SIMPLY TO ADD MY RECENT MEMORIES TO THIS BODY.
BUT NOW I--AND I ALONE--MUST BATTLE FOR MY VERY EXISTENCE...

"...AGAINST THE MIND OF PETER PARKER!"
...YOU'RE SPIDER-MAN NOW.
W-WAIT...
...DOESN'T HURT ANYMORE. AND I'M-- CHANGING?
I'M BACK TO MYSELF! NOT TRAPPED IN OCK'S BODY ANYMORE!
AM I DEAD? OR...OR AM I GETTING A SECOND CHANCE?
NEITHER.
THIS WAS THE MOMENT YOU DIED, TRAPPED IN MY FAILING FORM.
BUT THAT IS NOT WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN HERE.
FOR WE ARE NOW IN MY NEW, FRESH BODY. HEALTHY AND RESTORED.
THE LAST TIME WE MET LIKE THIS, A FRAGMENT OF YOUR CONSCIOUSNESS MANAGED TO SURVIVE... THAT WILL NOT BE THE CASE TODAY.
THIS IS MY SECOND CHANCE. MY NEW LIFE.
AND THERE IS NO PLACE IN IT FOR THE LIKES OF YOU!

NOT REALLY SURE WHAT ALL THAT JIBBER-JABBER MEANT, BUT I KNOW I'M STRONG ENOUGH TO FIGHT NOW...

...SO A FIGHT'S WHAT YOU'RE GONNA GET!

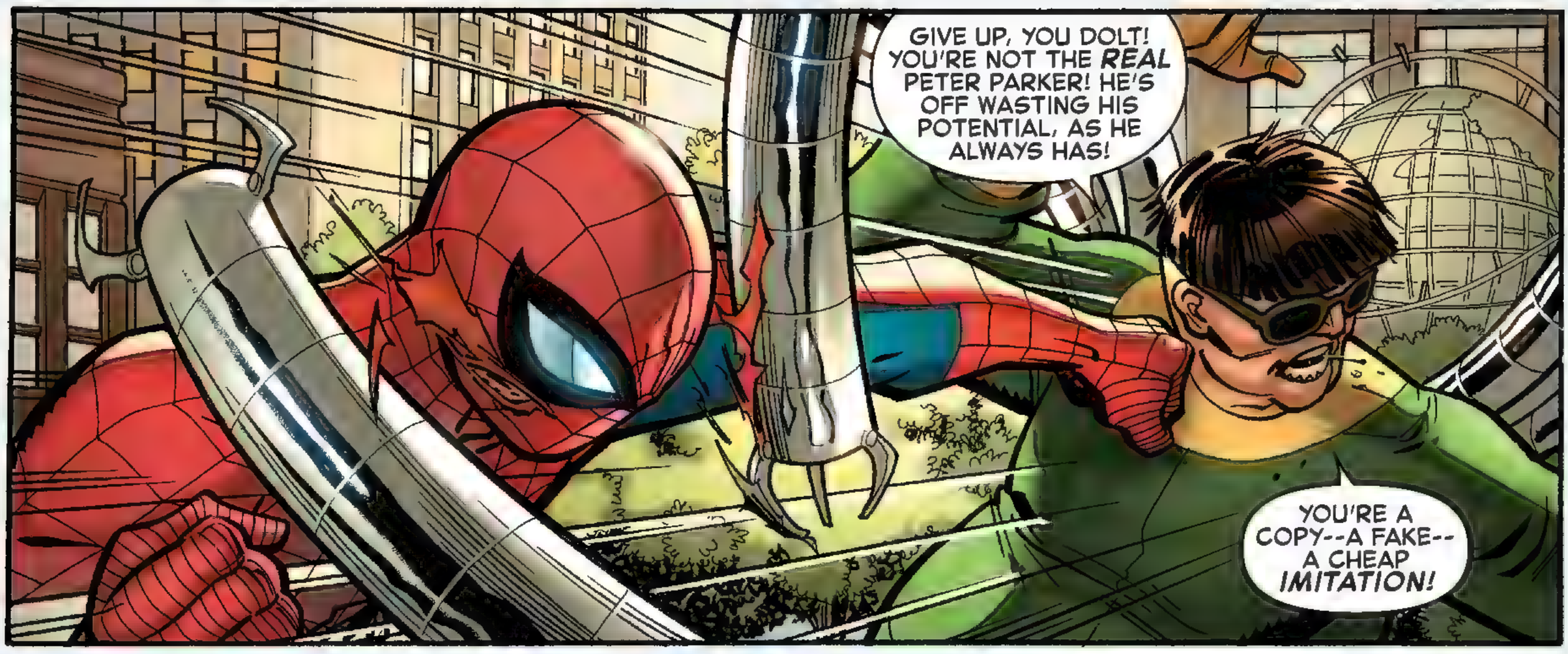
WELL, *THIS* IS NEW.

JACKAL, LOOK! THE READOUT OF THE BRAIN PATTERNS...

...IT'S *CHANGING!*

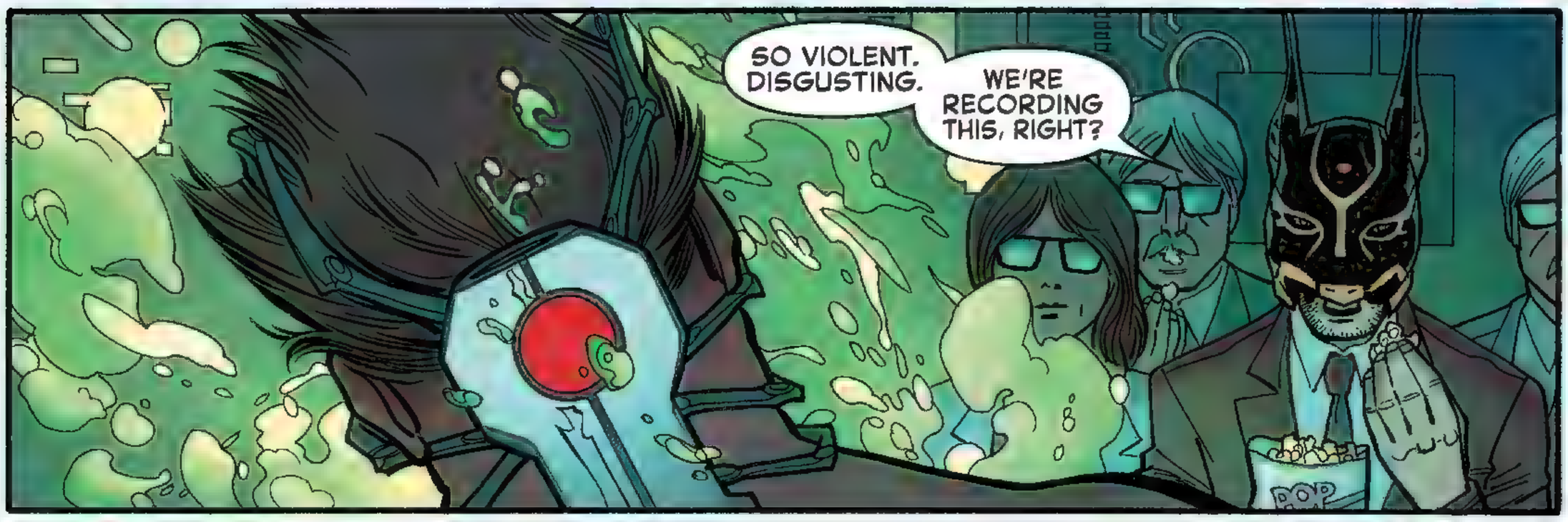
GET THE POPCORN. THIS'S GONNA BE GOOD.

I'M SERIOUS. GET ME *POPCORN.*

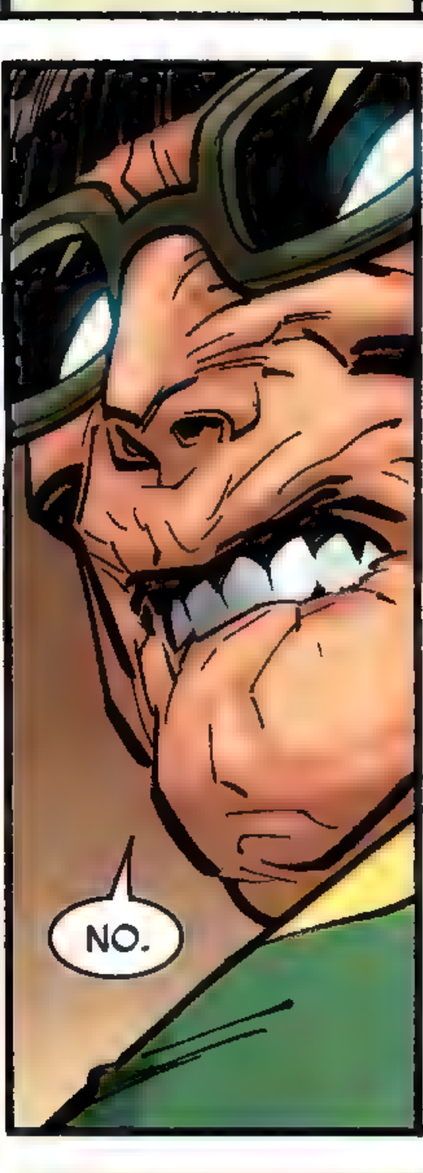

GIVE UP, YOU DOLT! YOU'RE NOT THE *REAL* PETER PARKER! HE'S OFF WASTING HIS POTENTIAL, AS HE ALWAYS HAS!
YOU'RE A COPY--A FAKE--A CHEAP *IMITATION!*

SAYS YOU.
ALL I KNOW IS, I'M *SPIDER-MAN.* AND NO MATTER WHAT THE ODDS, I'M THE GUY...

...WHO NEVER GIVES UP!
RRNNGHHH
EEAAGGHHH!


SO VIOLENT. DISGUSTING.
WE'RE RECORDING THIS, RIGHT?

OKAY. MAYBE IF I WEB YOU UP, IMMOBILIZE YOU, THAT'LL MAKE YOU THE "SUBORDINATE PERSONALITY."
THEN I COULD GET CONTROL HERE AND FIGURE OUT WHAT TO DO NEXT.
N-NO...


NO.

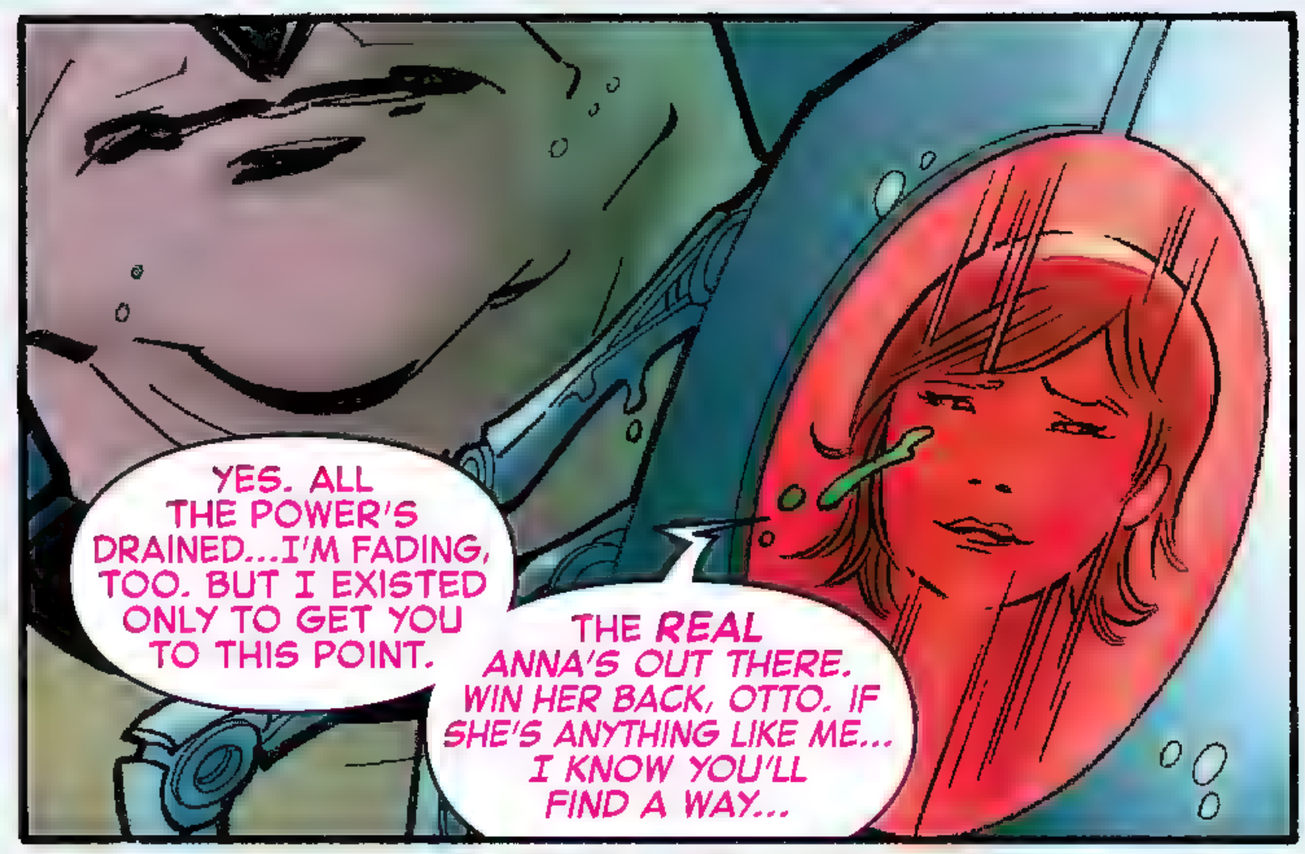
THIS IS MY BODY! MY EXISTENCE! AND HERE...

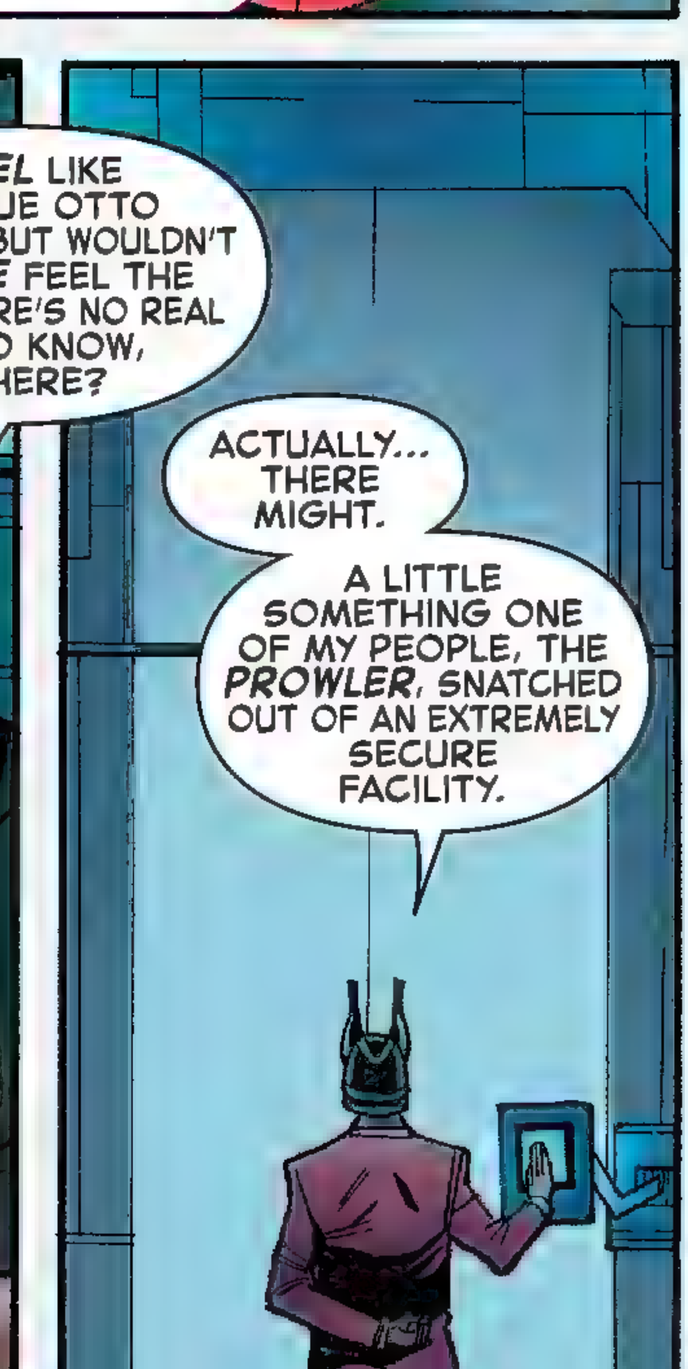
KRRNCH
I AM IN CONTROL!

AND YOU ARE DISMISSED.

NICELY DONE, OTTO. NOT REALLY SURE WHAT YOU WERE FIGHTING AGAINST, BUT MY SENSORS CONFIRM YOU KILLED THE *HECK* OUT OF IT.

SILENCE, DOLT. AS IF I'D TRUST THE LIKES OF *YOU*.





THIS SHOULD SETTLE ANY QUESTION AS TO WHETHER YOU'RE THE REAL OTTO OCTAVIUS.
TUNED TO YOUR MIND, AM I RIGHT? THEY'D LOBOTOMIZE ANYONE ELSE.
WELL, OTTO? WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?
I AM WAITING, WARREN...
...BECAUSE I DO NOT GO TO MY ARMS. THEY COME TO ME.
AND NEVER CALL ME "OTTO" AGAIN.
I HAVE A TITLE. I EARNED IT.
CALL ME "DOCTOR"...
...DOCTOR OCTOPUS!

WOW. I FEEL LIKE LIGHTNING SHOULD BE CRACKLING OVERHEAD. GOTTA HAND IT TO YOU, DOC, YOU MAKE THE CLASSIC STUFF WORK.
OH, BEFORE I FORGET...I HAVE ONE MORE "GIFT" FOR YOU.

HERE. YOU HAVE TO TAKE ONE OF THESE PILLS EVERY DAY... OR YOUR BODY WILL BREAK DOWN, AND YOU'LL DIE.
A LITTLE INSURANCE POLICY I PUT IN ALL MY CLIENTS...SO THEY DON'T FORGET WHO'S IN CHARGE.

HA! PLEASE, WARREN. DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DEALING WITH ANOTHER DILETTANTE, LIKE CONNORS? I AM OTTO OCTAVIUS.
I'VE STUDIED YOUR TECHNOLOGY IN DETAIL. THE CELLULAR BREAKDOWN ISN'T INTENTIONAL. IT'S A FLAW IN YOUR PROCESS. ONE YOU CAN'T CORRECT...

...ALONE. BUT WITH MY GENIUS, IT CAN BE SOLVED.
I DON'T NEED YOU. YOU NEED ME. OR, IF YOU FIND IT MORE PALATABLE, LET US SAY WE NEED EACH OTHER.

ALL RIGHT, DR. OCTAVIUS. WELCOME ABOARD... AND WELCOME BACK.

NOW.
YES, INSECT. I HAVE RETURNED. BUT NOT AS I WAS BEFORE.
WISER. BETTER. NOW, MORE THAN EVER, I KNOW *WHO* AND *WHAT* I AM.
I AM OTTO OCTAVIUS...
...AND, IN EVERY WAY, *I AM YOUR SUPERIOR!*
TO BE CONTINUED IN THE CLONE CONSPIRACY #2!

the AMAZING SPIDER-MAIL

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DEAD NO MORE: THE CLONE CONSPIRACY

Hey there, Web-Heads!

You aren't imagining things, IT'S A CONSPIRACY! No one is safe. Your mother, best friend, fish-monger, or news curator might ALL BE CLONES!!! Welcome to the first event tie-in issue of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN. If you haven't already picked up THE CLONE CONSPIRACY #1, WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?!?!?!

Anyway, not much to say here other than you are in for a real treat over the next few months. In two weeks, you get the direct continuation of this issue in THE CLONE CONSPIRACY #2. In one month, you get AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #21, wherein a certain Scarlet Spider gets some screen time. Basically, every issue of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN directly complements the main CLONE CONSPIRACY event, giving you more depth and meaning as well as some of the most intense and creepy Spider-Man stories ever. And if you want even MORE depth? Check out our new PROWLER series. Picking up from AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #17, this series by Sean Ryan, Jamal Campbell, and Javier Saltares chronicles the ongoing story of Hobie Brown, a.k.a. The Prowler, and his ties to The Jackal! Also tying in is SILK! Cindy Moon comes to San Francisco as well and gets caught up in the Conspiracy. Here's a nice checklist for all things Clone! Don't miss ANY of them!

THE CLONE CONSPIRACY #2

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #21

CHECKLIST

OCTOBER

- [x] DEAD NO MORE: THE CLONE CONSPIRACY #1
- [x] AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #20
- [ ] PROWLER #1

NOVEMBER

- [ ] DEAD NO MORE: THE CLONE CONSPIRACY #2
- [ ] AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #21
- [ ] SILK #14
- [ ] PROWLER #2

DECEMBER

- [ ] DEAD NO MORE: THE CLONE CONSPIRACY #3
- [ ] AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #22
- [ ] SILK #15
- [ ] PROWLER #3

JANUARY

- [ ] DEAD NO MORE: THE CLONE CONSPIRACY #4
- [ ] AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #23
- [ ] SILK #16
- [ ] PROWLER #4

FEBRUARY

- [ ] DEAD NO MORE: THE CLONE CONSPIRACY #5
- [ ] AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #24
- [ ] SILK #17
- [ ] PROWLER #5

See you soon, and keep on spinnin'!

NICK

ZONE